Wales
THE
W.S.T. 11 78.

TO The Honourable Court The Houſe of COMMONS Now aſſembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of many hundred thouſands, inhabiting within the thirteene Shires of WALES,

Directed to the Houſe the 12. of *February*, 1641. ſhewing their manifold grievances, for which they deſire redreſſe from the Parliament.

With their motion that their Country may be more ſtrongly fortified with Ammunition of Armes.

And how they freely proffer themſelves to aſſiſt the Proteſtants in *Ireland*.

Printed at London for *T. H.* 1642

TO THE

HONOVRABLE COVRT

THE

Houſe of Commons

now aſſembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of many hundred thouſands, inhabiting within the thirteene Shires of *Wales*:

Sheweth,

THat the manifold preſſures, under which we have groaned theſe many yeares, have beene by you endeavoured to be reformed, and amended by your unwearied labors, and unceſſant conſultations. Yet notwithſtanding your ſedulous vigilances hath wraſtled with thoſe extreme diſturbances, and diſtempers in the Kingdome: We ſtill finde out many inconveniences ariſing afreſh, to the great amazement and diſcouragement of his Majeſties loyall Subjects. Wherefore our humble motion is, that your Honours would ſe-

riouſly revolve the ſtill growing miſeries, under which we have beene, and are now ſubjected: that you would be graciouſly pleaſed to adde a period to the calamities which are preſſed upon us. The diffuſive current of theſe grievances diſtill from one originall ſpring, and that we conceive to be a malignant party, and faction, who build obſtructions againſt your deliberate and judicious determinations; who caſt ſcandalous aſperſions upon what hath beene by you enacted; and labour to nullifie, or at leaſt to extenuate in a repugnant oppoſition, what you are in agitation to inſtitute. The boldneſſe of theſe malevolent adverſaries hath too audaciouſly outdared the very fundamentall lawes, and hath treacherouſly ſtudied to ſubvert the foundation, upon which the Juſtice and Religion of this Nation is firmely built and eſtabliſht. We earneſtly therefore entreat your Honours maturely to conſider their malicious intents, and daily practiſes againſt the State; which if they be not ſeaſonably caſtigated in time, before their infant conſpiracies grow to the prime height of their ripe perfection, they will then become incorrigible. Yet withall wee impartially acknowledge your ſedulity in correcting and ſequeſtring them, but your endeavours have ſtill beene fruſtrate and retarded, by reaſon of their abounding malignitie. And whereas divers high taxations have beene oftentimes impoſed on us, wee did alwayes upon the conſideration of the ſame, expect a reformation; but as yet wee have found little or no redreſſe: the cauſe of which we neither conceive, or

ſuſpect

ſuſpect to be produced by you, but principally by the calumnious ſuggeſtions of that factious party; which we deſire may be excluded and expelled the Houſe of Peeres: Thus the liberty of the Subject is trampled downe, the Trades decay in the whole Kingdom, and for our parts, our Eſtates are ſo miſerably waſted by heavy impoſitions, that without your propitious relief we ſhall periſh with our Wives and Families; and Cattell which is the chiefeſt mine of our Countrey, have been bought, and driven from us by whole flockes and heards at once, ſome tranſported into *Ireland*, and others into moſt parts of *England*, ſo that unleſſe ſome ſuddain redreſſe be ſpeedily occaſioned by you, we ſhall be impoveriſhed: our ſerious motion is therefore, that your Honours would be pleaſed to vindicate the abuſive wrongs done unto our Countrey, and that you would ſpeedily eaſe us of this burden of miſery, which we are no longer able to ſupport. And whereas we eſpecially have alwayes ſhewn our loyalty to his Majeſty, our awfull obedience unto you, obſequiouſly ſubſcribing to what you have been pleaſed to impoſe upon us; yet notwithſtanding we are diſreſpected, and ſhamefully derided with ludibrious contempt more than any other Countrey whatſoever; wherefore we beſeech you that the authours, urgers, or ſuggeſters of the ſame may be found out, and known, yea and ſuffer exemplary and condigne puniſhment for their reproaching us, according to their juſt demerits; for otherwiſe we can conceive this Epidemicall deriſion of us to be nothing elſe, but a

ſcorning deteſtation to our known fidelity (which as we have hitherto kept, ſo ſhall ſtill continue inviolable) this grievance eſpecially, unleſſe it be amended, will become a great diſcouragement to all our Countreymen.

We deſire likewiſe that Learning be not too much diſcountenanced and contemned, but rather that it may be advanced to its former dignity: for it is a moſt ignominious, ſhamefull, blaſphemous, and unknowne thing; yea, moſt incongruous both to the Word of God, and common reaſon too, that Coblers, and Doctors of Divinity ſhould be equall competitors. Thus if Scholarſhip be defaced, *England* (the glory of all Nations lately) is ſuddenly like to degenerate, and decline from its former ſplendor, and ſo conſequently become barbarous. Yet we ſpeak not this in behalfe of any, for we call God to witneſſe, and our own actions can teſtifie as much, that whomſoever your Honours ſhall finde culpable, and delinquent, we deſire may be proſecuted according to the due proceſſe of Law, and (if the atrocity of the crime require it) be fully executed according to the juſtice of the Realme. But amidſt all our own calaties eſpecially, we cannot omit that of *Ireland*, to hear of the condoleable miſery of the Proteſtant party, and the inhumane tyranny of thoſe helliſh Rebels: they have been in wofull diſtreſſe a long time, and yet almoſt deſtitute of relief, till of late your Honours have been moved to commiſerate their diſtreſſed eſtates; and as you have begun, ſo we beſeech you proceed, and continue in the ſame progreſſion

ſion of mercy and charity; that the firſt beginning of Reformation do not initiate in cruell oppoſition, and that the foundation whereon that Reformation ſhould be eſtabliſht, be not written with the characters, and inſcription of blood. For our parts, we will to the uttermoſt of our powers labour to repell, and divert the furious rage of thoſe tyrants, and wil to the end of our lives ſtand in the defence, and maintenance of Proteſtant Religion. What we now crave more, is your mutuall concordance with his Majeſty, that you may both concurre in a co-unite correſpondency of opinions, that the weighty affaires of the Kingdom may be deliberated with more facility, and that whatſoever you conſult of, may tend to the honour of God, the peace, ſafety, and tranquillity of the Land: that the malignant inſolency of the Recuſant party may be more eaſily curbed; that delinquents may be called to their trials, be puniſhed, and ſuffer juſt execution: according as they have promerited, with expedition, leaſt they ſhould break out, and hatch new conſpiracies, and ſo contaminate the more ſincere body: that the manifold abuſes to our Countrey be reſpectively vindicated; that the confuſions, diviſions, diſtractions, and diſturbances may be allayed in a peacefull mitigation; that the Divine Worſhip of God be no longer prophaned, but that it may rather be ſetled ſpeedily in a purer way; that a clearer way may be opened for Trading and Merchandiſe; that eſpecially this being duly conſidered, that we may be better fortified, and provided with Ammunition of Armes, and other

other military Hoſtility, that ſo we may be more able to encounter with any forraigne Enemy, that ſhall preſume to oppoſe, or invade the Britiſh Nation; That thus being armed againſt any oppoſition, we may more freely enjoy the peace and liberty of our Conſciences, and eſtates; to the great comfort of his Majeſty, the immortall fame of your Honour, with the ſafety and proſperity of the whole Kingdom.

Thus your Petitioners ſhall be bound to pray for the happy ſucceſſe of your conſultations, that the Divine Providence of Almighty God may direct and proſper all your deliberations, &c.

FINIS.

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